

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:10 p.m.

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, S. McDonald
Absent: D. Butler, G. Pohorely

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the “Open Public Meetings Act” read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Monday, February 10, 2020. A Motion was made by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the amended minutes be approved for the meeting of January 13, 2020.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Tree City Bulletin: January/February 2020 Do Your Trees Pose a Risk? - This will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. New Jersey State Forest Service Seedling Order – The seedling order was placed for (25) Arrowwood Viburnums and (25) Silky Dogwoods. S. Marr will pick up the order on April 15th at the Round Valley Recreation area in Lebanon.
2. 118 Wayne Street Tree Evaluation – It was noted that this location was previously evaluated by Sunshine Tree & Landscape in October 2019. Due to the Shade Tree Commission’s limited budget, this location was placed on the ongoing maintenance list for removal. A second evaluation is not necessary at this time.
3. 2020 Maintenance Update – It was decided that quotes will be requested when there are more maintenance locations added to the current list. The Borough has only disbursed a temporary budget to all departments at this time. This topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 133 West Washington Ave. – The homeowner (Melanie Jensen) expressed concern about the tree in front of her property. There have been fallen branches and considers it a potential hazard. After a call from the Shade Tree Commission, the DOT trimmed the lower branches in June 2018. This was prompted when Mrs. Jensen reported branches that were extending towards her home. Since the homeowner has expressed additional concerns, this location will be placed on the maintenance list for a professional evaluation. A letter will be sent to the owner stating this decision.
2. Salem Oak Seedling – In celebration of the 50th birthday and anniversary of America's 1st Earth Day, the Department of Environmental Protection will give a seedling from the famed Salem Oak to each of New Jersey's 565 municipalities. The young seedling will be temporarily planted in Councilperson, Josephine Noone's fenced yard for safety, until a suitable space is selected.
3. Washington Borough Tree Dedication - There will be various programs scheduled for the week of April 20, 2020 to commemorate Arbor Day and the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Some events include a poetry workshop at the Washington Public Library and a cleanup at the Borough park. The Arbor Day Proclamation will be read at the park and a tree will be planted at a designated location there. This topic will be discussed again at the March Shade Tree meeting. K. Halpin met with a few Library Board members to share thoughts regarding a tree dedication for Cindy Trimmer. Cindy was a devoted library staff member who passed away in 2012. Library Board Member, John Valentine commented that the library could ask for public donations and split the cost of the tree with the Shade Tree Commission. K. Halpin suggested a flowering tree on the east side, so it can be viewed through the large windows at the back of the library. This topic will be revisited at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming